

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P 040933Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1069

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS

REF: STATE 244190

1. WASHINGTON POST ACCOUNT CITED REFTEL REFERS TO STATEMENT BY CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CLUP) DATED SEPTEMBER 29TH. STATEMENT WAS REACTING TO SPEECH AMBASSADOR GAVE TO ROTARY GROUP SEPTEMBER 13 AND REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER 14 DAILY EXPRESS. TEXT OF SPEECH NOT AVAILABLE BUT EMBASSY HAS TAPE. EXPRESS ACCOUNT HEADED "U.S. ENVOY SEES ECONOMIC MIRACLE IN RP BY 1980" EMPHASIZES AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT THAT GOP NEEDED 19 BILLION BEYOND WHAT PHIL EXPORT ECONOMY CAN EARN FOR DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL DURING 1980S. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT PHILIPPINES "FIRST ONE ON LINE WAITING FOR A TAKE-OFF IN ASIA" BUT THAT IT HAD TO LOOK TOWARD ACCUMULATING CAPITAL THROUGH ITS OWN EYES AND NOT THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD.

2. CLUP STATEMENT DRAWING ON EXPRESS ACCOUNT CONCLUDES THAT AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS DISPARAGE GENERAL THRUST OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY. "FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S AGITATIVE AND OPEN DEFINANCE OF A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF ANNOUNCED PHILIPPINE DIPLOMACY, IT BECOMES OBVIOUS THAT HE IS WORKING ACTIVELY TO UNDERMINE, IN THE EYES OF FILIPINOS, THE ANNOUNCED EFFORTS OF THE MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENT TO

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STEER AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY." CLUP ALSO CENSURES

MARCOS FOR SILENCE ON SPEECH AND CHALLENGES HIM TO PROVE THERE NO "SECRET UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HIM AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT" BY DEMANDING AMBASSADOR'S RECALL.

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED TO CLUP STATEMENT IN LETTER TO CLUP CHAIRMAN, SENATOR DIONKO, SEPTEMBER 28. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF REPLY. BEGIN TEXT. THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME A COPY OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION ENTITLED "RECALL U.S. AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN." I HAVE READ THE DOCUMENT WITH INTEREST. PARA. THE ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE STATEMENT IS BASED ARE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT AND REPRESENT A DISTORTION OF THE REMARKS WHICH I MADE IN A TALK TO A ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON ON SEPTEMBER 13. IT IS TRUE THAT I HAVE NOT DENIED THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO ME, BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT I DO NOT MAKE IT A PRACTICE TO COMMENT ON ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS WHICH APPEAR IN THE PRESS, EITHER HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ELSEWHERE. PARA. THE TALK WHICH I GAVE WAS NOT AN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES BUT RATHER AN EFFORT TO INDICATE HOW THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES VIEWED THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, AND TO SUGGEST THAT THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THE PHILIPPINES WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE PROBLEMS FACED BY SOME OF THE LESS FAVORED NATIONS. END TEXT.

4. CLUP STATEMENT HAS RECEIVED MINIMAL PRESS COVERAGE. OCTOBER 2 TV NEWS BRIEFLY REPORTED CLUP STATEMENT BUT NOTED MAIN THRUST OF AMBASSADOR'S REPLY TO DIONKO IS THAT AMBASSADOR SIMPLY POINTING OUT GOP'S DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER NATIONS OF DEVELOPING WORLD. VALENCIA IN OCTOBER 2 EXPRESS WRITES THAT DIONKO WAS TRYING TO SLAP MARCOS AND AMBASSADOR IN ONE SWING "BUT IN THE PROCESS THE CLUP STATEMENT ITSELF BECAME ENTWINED IN ITS OWN CONTRADICTIONS. EVEN SULLIVAN WILL HAVE TO SMILE IT OFF." OCT 4 AP REPORTED AMBASSADOR'S LETTER DISTRIBUTED IN PAMPHLET AT DEMONSTRATION (SEPTTEL) OCT 3 BUT THAT EMBASSY HAD NO REPEAT NO COMMENT.

5. COMMENT. AMBASSADOR PRESENTLY IN WASHINGTON AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY WISH TO ADD TO FOREGOING. SHOULD QUERIES PERSIST WE WOULD SUGGEST THIRD PARAGRAPH OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER IS BEST REPLY. IT MIGHT ALSO BE NOTED THAT DIONKO DID NOT EVEN REQUEST TEXT OF SPEECH BUT PRODUCED STATEMENT ON BASIS OF ACCOUNT IN PRESS OF WHICH HE HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY CRITICAL. BEGIN FYI. ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR BY CLUP SEEMS IDIOSYNCRATIC EVEN BY DIONKO'S STANDARDS. ALIEN DOMINATION OF PHILIPPINE

ECONOMY HAS BEEN FORMER SENATOR'S FAVORITE HOBBY HORSE OF
LATE AND AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
MAY HAVE SPURRED ATTACK. ADDITIONALLY CLUP AND
DIOKNO MAY HAVE BEEN SEEKING PUBLICITY ON EVE OF IMF
CONFERENCE. IN ANY EVENT, CLUP STATEMENT SO PREPOSTEROUS
THAT EVEN DIOKNO'S PRINCIPAL CONTACT ZEITLIN OF AP RAN
ONLY BRIEFITEM ON IT, END FYI.
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